



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Townsville Innovation and Technology Week

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.49 a.m.): North Queensland is again in the news this week, not just for hosting my government's 70th community cabinet meeting but also for this week's Townsville Innovation and Technology Week—a very important week. It sets out what we are doing with the Smart State. I seek leave to have details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

This week-long event gives north Queensland scientists and innovators the recognition they deserve.

It also provides the business people of Townsville with an opportunity to see how innovation and technology can improve their business processes.

This is a high-technology showcase event, and north Queenslanders can be proud of their region's achievements.

The week is staged by the Department of State Development and Innovation and Townsville Enterprise Limited.

It shows why Townsville has become possibly the most progressive regional city in the state.

Queensland's Chief Scientist Professor Peter Andrews officially launched the week.

He has done a fantastic job promoting the north's tropical location as integral to its ability to develop cures and preventative measures for tropical disease.

We all know that the north is ripe for technological expansion—and events such as Innovation and Technology Week provide a great opportunity to explore the potential of new industries and processes such as coral reef management, solar power and tropical science.

North Queensland has the potential to achieve global recognition, particularly in the area of tropical science.

James Cook University is setting up a program that will establish it as a world leader in biosecurity and tropical medicine by combining agricultural and veterinary sciences.

It's actions like this that define north Queensland as a forward-thinking high-tech region.

Innovation and Technology Week offers scientists and the research community the chance to highlight their work.

It also offers business people the chance to boost their skills by attending seminars and practical workshops, and other members of the community can explore technology such as e-commerce and e-learning which are rapidly being adopted into normal, every day life.

The week's activities cover seminars and workshops on a broad range of industries from mining, to ICT, to innovations in the sugar industry, showing the integral part technology plays in modern business.

The week also gives James Cook University the chance to show off its Cyclone Testing Centre, one of only a handful in the world that are designed to test cyclone impact on full-scale buildings.